GROSS MARGARET A
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ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 JUSE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 /084 W
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TAGS: SOPN PFOR KS US
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS COVERS PAK TONG-SON AFFAIR
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SUMMARY. ALL KOREAN PAPERS DEVOTE MAJOR ATTENTION TO DEVELOPMENTS TOWARD RESOLUTION OF PAK CASE, WITH TWO PAPERS APPARENTLY HAVING SUBSTANCE OF ROKGOVS COMPROMISE PROPOSAL OF OCTOBER FROM ONE SOURCE IS QUOTED AS SAYING U.S. OFFICIALS MIGHT VISIT KOREA WITHIN NOVEMBER TO HEAR PAK'S TESTIMONY. WHETHER PAK WILL GO TO U.S. IS SEEN AS PROBLEM BETWEEN U.S. AND PAK. END SUMMARY.

1. ON NOVEMBER 4, ALL AFTERNOON VERNACULAR DAILIES GAVE PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT TO LATEST DEVELOPMENTS TOWARD SOLUTION OF PAK TONG-SON CASE. AS RESULT OF AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER NOVEMBER 3 (REFTEL). ALL AFTERNOON PAPERS, QUOTING A "DIPLOMATIC SOURCE", SAID THAT ROK AND USG HAVE AGREED "IN PRINCIPLE" TO U.S.

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OFFICIALS' INTERVIEWING PAK TONG-SON IN U.S. EMBASSY TO DETERMINE HIS INTENTIONS REGARDING LEAVING KOREA FOR A THIRD COUNTRY. SEVERAL PAPERS NOTED THAT WORKING-LEVEL GROUP WAS COMPLETING DETAILS OF INTERVIEW (SUCH AS WHETHER KOREAN OFFICIALS WOULD BE PRESENT: CHUNGANG ILBO), AND THAT FURTHER "HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS" ARE PLANNED FOR NEXT WEEK. IN THIS CONNECTION, MOST AFTER-NOON PAPERS NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR SNEIDER HAD LEFT NOVEMBER 4 ON A PRIVATE TRIP TO JAPAN FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

2. SEVERAL PAPERS QUOTED "A SOURCE" AS NOTING THAT, IF WORKING-LEVEL GROUP MADE GOOD PROGRESS, U.S. INVESTIGATORS MIGHT VISIT KOREA WITHIN THE MONTH. (KYONGHYANG SINMUN QUOTED A GOVERNMENT SOURCE AS SAYING THAT U.S. OFFICIAL WOULD PROBABLY BE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S PROSECUTOR OF PAK TONG-SON AFFAIR.)

3. CHOSON ILBO AND TONGA ILBO GAVE PARTICULARLY DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF ROKG'S COMPROMISE PROPOSAL OF OCTOBER 31. BOTH ACCOUNTS AGREE THAT A) SOLUTION WOULD BE SOUGHT ON

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DIPLOMATIC. RATHER THAN JUDICIAL LEVEL; B) ROKG WOULD PERMIT U.S. OFFICIALS, IN PRESENCE OF KOREAN OFFICIALS, TO CONFIRM PAK'S INTENTIONS AS TO GOING TO A THIRD COUNTRY AT MEETING WITH PAK IN U.S. EMBASSY; AND C) KOREA WOULD COOPERATE FLEXIBLY, (WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF LEGAL ORDER OF BOTH COUNTRIES, INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE, AND RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY, AND ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY) SO THAT U.S. COULD LISTEN TO PAK'S TESTIMONY (TONGA ADDS KOREAN OFFICIALS WOULD BE PRESENT HERE, TOO). TONGA GOES ON TO ADD THAT ISSUE OF PAK'S POSSIBLY GOING TO U.S. AFTER ABOVE TWO STEPS REMAINS AS LAST ISSUE TO BE COMPROMISED UPON.

4. TONGA QUOTES A SOURCE AS SAYING IT IS ROKG POSITION THAT PAK'S TESTIMONY MUST BE RECEIVED IN "A KOREAN GOVERNMENT AGENCY", IN THE PRESENCE OF KOREAN OFFICIALS AND THAT HE EXPECTS U.S. NOT TO OPPOSE THAT POSITION. TONGA ARTICLE COMMENTS THAT THIS SEEMS TO MEAN ROKG CAN YIELD FROM ITS FORMER POSITION OF INSISTING THAT QUESTIONING OF PAK BE DONE BY KOREANS, WHILE AMERICAN PROSECUTORS LISTEN.

5. TONGA QUOTES "A GOVERNMENT SOURCE" AS SAYING IT IS ROKG POSITION THAT ISSUE OF PAK'S GOING TO U.S. IS ONE TO BE SETTLED "BETWEEN MR. PAK AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT." ARTICLE ALSO ADDS THAT, IN REFERENCE TO CONGRESS'S NEED FOR PAK'S TESTIMONY, "A SOURCE" SAID THAT ROKG POSITION IS THAT USG INVESTIGATIONS OF PAK "MUST BE COMBINED INTO ONE."

6. TONGA ALSO RAN "MINI COMMENTARY" COLUMN BY REPORTER KIM SONG-IK WHICH, IN POINTING OUT THAT WHETHER PAK GOES TO THE U.S. WILL BE KEY TO SOLUTION, PRESENTS FIRST ACCOUNT YET SEEN IN LOCAL PRESS OF NEED FOR PAK'S DIRECT TESTIMONY BEFORE TRIAL JURY, AS OPPOSED TO GRAND JURY. IN ADDITION, PAK'S ATTITUDES TOWARD GIVING TESTIMONY AND ITS CONTENTS WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT, KIM POINTS OUT.

7. AFTERNOON PAPERS ALSO GENERALLY RAN WIRE SERVICE STORIES ON RELATED DEVELOPMENTS: PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ROKG'S DEGREE OF COOPERATION WITH USG IN PAK CASE, EXPECTED NOVEMBER 4; CHAIRMAN FLYNT'S REPORT OF NO PROOF YET OF ANY REPRESENTATIVE'S ACCEPTANCE OF MONEY FROM KOREANS; AND DEPARTMENT'S CANNON'S STATEMENT THAT U.S. COMMITMENTS TO KOREA AND NORTHEAST ASIA HAVE NOT BEEN REDUCED.

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